# ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 04-20-2006 BY

#59

# U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.	Phoenix, Arizona 85012 January 4, 2004 b6 b7C
LOTFI RA	ISSI,
Lotfi Raissi is describe  prior disseminations regarding obtained which established reason  Hani Hanjour, the American Airlines Flight 77 on 09/the Pentagon.	This communication augments and summarizes information to believe presumed pilot of the hijacked
On August 21, 1993, at 1 line at the Gulf Air check-in desk waiting, the line. was arround was arround to september 27, 1993, he was conviction.	at Heathrow Airport. While a passenger in ested and charged with Theft.
that authorities on August 22, 1996	through efforts by LEGAT Rome the Italian e circumstances surrounding the ed:
On August 22, 1996, two Officers stopped an individual who behaving in a suspicious manner in produced an international driver's identifying him	appeared to be North African Rome, Italy. The individual license, issued in Egypt,

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

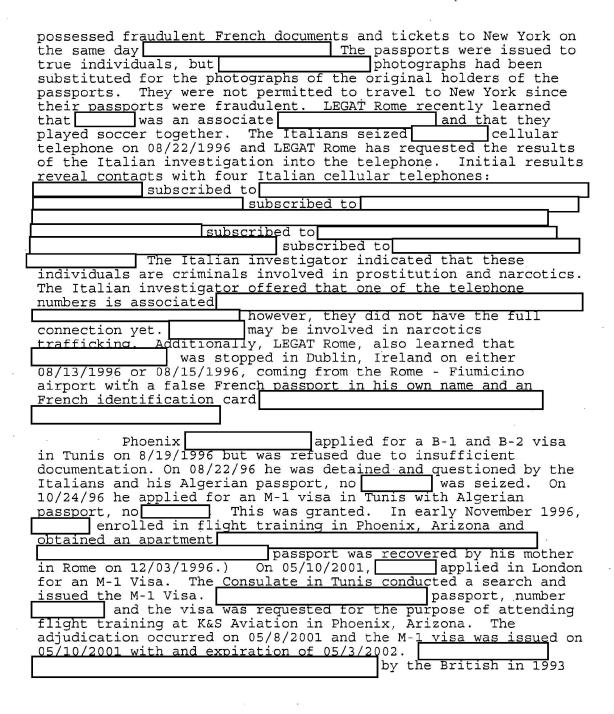
bб b7С

# <u>LOTFI RAISSI</u>

history under numerous aliases (identified as His driver's license was seized
and he was charged with false information and false documents.
had made a telephone call on his cellular telephone as he was being stopped by the police, advising the recipient of the call, in French, that he was being stopped by the police. The police determined that the number he called, was subscribed to by the Hotel Napoleon, Pizza Vittorio Emanuel II. The police went to the hotel and learned that telephone call had been transferred to a room occupied by an Algerian and a French woman. The police also learned from the hotel personnel that the Algerian had received Arabic speaking males as visitors to the hotel room.
The hotel registry indicated that the Algerian had provided French documents to the hotel in the name
A French
identity card number issued in France on 12/10/1991 identified
The French woman possessed
a French passport, number issued in
a rience passport, number
France on 07/22/1994 identifying
also possessed copies
of two other French government documents indicating that his name
The police went to the hotel room and found the woman hurriedly packing a suitcase, and a man taking a shower. Upon seeing the police, the woman threw herself on the floor, screaming. The man told her, in French, that "they're Italian police, they're excrement." The Italian police found an Algerian containing photograph, issued to Also found were the following items: a copy of the Koran - which the Algerian did not want touched, a form I-20M-N, entitled, US Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant (M-1) Student Status For Vocational Students. (A M1 visa is issued for vocational or non-academic student training.)
On the same day that questioned by the Italian police. 08/22/1996, two other
were stopped at the Rome-Fiumicino
airport. were in possession of false French passports and tickets for New York. also

LOTFI RAISSI

b6 b7C



Ъ6 Ъ7С

for theft under the alias of or his use of the alias in his visa application.
The FBI received information from multiple individual who represented that Hanjour were associated. The results of those interviews have been previously disseminated via a Letter Head Memorandum dated 09/22/2001. The information set forth below are excerpts from those interviews which established the basis for believing with Hanjour.
On September 14, 2001, provided the following information:
Sawyer , School of Aviation, hereafter referred to as Sawyer, 2730 Sky Harbor Blvd., Phoenix, Arizona 85034, telephone number: facsimile number: (602) 244-2282. at Sawyer. She has been employed with Sawyer
remembers that four male individuals that she believed to be from the Middle East joined the Sims Club at Sawyer on 06/23/2001. researched Sawyer computer records for Sims Club membership and identified the following male individuals as being the Middle Eastern individuals who joined the club on 06/23/2001:  Hani Hanjour. Sawyer records reflects that Hanjour's membership at the Sims Club expired on 07/29/2001.  membership expired on 08/08/2001.
provided interviewing Agent with a copy of Sawyer Simulator Club records naming the above described individuals. These were place in a 1A envelope.
stated that she distinctly remembers the above listed individuals because they wandered around the Sawyer facility liked they owned the place. They would all come into the facility at once and block off large segments of time on the AST-300 flight simulator. They would take turns using the simulator. When one of them was using the simulator the others would be lounging around the snack bar area or taking a nap while waiting for their turns on the simulator described these individuals as being rude to other Sawyer employees stated that these individuals would come in together. Sometimes all four would come in and at other times two would come in. She

# LOTFI RAISSI

believes that two of the individuals only participated briefly in the training. She could not remember which two.

The individuals described above would not normally make reservations to block out time to use the simulator on the Sawyer's simulator schedule. \_\_\_\_\_ that the norm is for club members to call the Sawyer front desk and reserve simulator time. It is unusual for members not to reserve time in advance.

never saw a vehicle(s) associated with the above described individuals.

described the individuals as follows:

UNSUB #1 Middle Eastern, male, early to mid 20s in age, 5'2"-5'4" in height, 160 lbs. in weight, short and stocky build, dark olive complexion, black short curly hair, back mustache, spoke English with a heavy accent.

UNSUB #2 Middle Eastern, male, early to mid 20s in age, 5'9" - 5'10" in height, 170 lbs. in weight, medium build, dark colored short/medium length hair, dark full mustache.

UNSUB #3 Middle Eastern, male, early - mid 20s in age, 5'8" in height, 170 lbs. in weight, olive complexion, medium build, dark colored hair cut short, dark colored mustache.

UNSUB #4 Middle Eastern, male, early to mid 20s in age, 5'6" - 5'7" in height, olive complexion, dark colored hair, dark colored beard and mustache.

On September 15, 2001 provided FBI Phoenix the following information:	
advised that he was employed Arizona Aviation Academy from 1991-1999.	at
<u> </u>	
Academy in 1997. advised that Hanjour had two additional	1
flight instructors while attending Arizona Aviation Academy,	
when Hanjour first began flying lesson at Arizona Aviation Academy, Hanjour already had some advanced training and a private pilots license.	

Hanjour was training on the Cessna 172, which is a single engine, four seat and 150 horse power engine the ability to fly a Cessna 172 could transfer over to the ability to fly a 757 airplane Hanjour was also training for an instrument level, and the instructor for this training
Hanjour was a terrible pilot. Hanjour had difficulty understanding air traffic control, the methods for determining fuel management and had poor navigational skills.  the only flying skill Hanjour could perform was flying the plane straight.  Hanjour's poor flying skills were due to a language barrier.  Hanjour took lessons  per week, for two months.  Hanjour was a terrible pilot. Hanjour Hanjour was a terrible pilot. Hanjour Hanjour
Hanjour as very quiet, and did not discuss politics, the military or any aspect of his personal life; however, Hanjour became very upset,
Hanjour would occasionally cheat on several flying tests and when confronted about it, Hanjour would lie about it.  Hanjour only associated with the other Arab students, while at Arizona Aviation Academy.
Hanjour as a male, 5'5", short dark hair, light complexion, slight build, well spoken, and possessed adequate English skills. was shown a picture of Hanjour and that was the person at Arizona Aviation Academy.
when he refused to continue instructing  Hanjour, Hanjour started training  Hanjour completed his training

b6 b7С

# LOTFI RAISSI On September 16, 2001, Phoenix FBI interviewed regarding her knowledge of Hani Hanjour and known came in regular contact with Hanjour and his associates. at Arizona associates Aviation from January 1998 to September 1999. had contacted the task force to report that she had some information about Hani Hanjour. provided the following information: students pursing various ratings. While at Arizona Aviation she had occasional contact with Hanjour and associates. Hanjour as a small man who was very quiet. A picture of Hanjour was shown and she recognized him as the Hanjour that trained at Arizona Aviation. Hanjour often participated in flying lessons for a one to two weeks and then would disappear for weeks or months at a time. Arizona Aviation, often had to call Hanjour in an effort to get Hanjour to pay his bill. Hanjour did not pay his fees daily but often let the monthly bill add up to \$1,500 to \$2,500, based on the money owed for the plane rental and instructor's fees. On at least two occasions, Hanjour came into the office and paid in cash using small denominations, which he retrieved from an envelope that he was carrying. Hanjour and thought that he was pursing his private pilots license while at Arizona Aviation. She thought that Hanjour may have also been pursing his instrument rating as well, after getting his private pilots

license.

Hanjour was friends with three other student pilots and two other pilot instructors, all of Middle Eastern decent. She assumed that Hanjour was roommates with several of the students based on them sharing rides to and from the airport.
associates and described him as 22 or 23 years old, who was friendlier than the others. She knew his name because for all the Arizona Aviation students. often picked up and dropped off the other Middle Eastern students in his own car.
Another of Hanjour's associates, was a very large man weighing about 250 lbs and described him as having a good sense of humor. On May 31, 1998, for a "Stage 1 Phase Check" which was required to secure his private pilots license. wrote in her flight log book that she did not recommend to fly solo.
also recognized the photo  as a former Arizona Aviation student pilot and an associate of Hanjour. She described him as a very small man, and confirmed that he was only about 5'0" tall.  Abdullah but saw him around Arizona Aviation.
the photograph of  Arizona Aviation and an associate of  Hanjour. recalled that Hanjour both took flying lessons a very nice man with a nice family and could not possibly see him as being involved in any terrorist attack.
the photograph working as a freelance at Falcon Field, Mesa, and an associate of Hanjour. often rented Arizona Aviation's planes as an instructor but never was on Arizona Aviation payroll. flew multi-engine airplanes and was checked out for proficiency before being allowed to fly at Arizona Aviation.
Aviation often discussed the poor hygiene of these Middle Eastern students and were reluctant to fly with them because of their odor. It was arranged to have be assigned as to at least three of the above four students  Hanjour, a very forceful and pushy guy with bad teeth.
also recalled that he often traveled back and forth to the Middle

East and remembered one conversation that she had of him complaining that he could not smoke cigarettes on American flights, but that he could smoke on the airlines in his country.  all of the individuals associated with Hanjour were chain smokers include Hanjour.
An analysis of records received from Arizona Aviation conducted by the Phoenix Division determined flight activity began on November 19, 1997 and ended on May 10, 1999.    paid a total of \$7,465.15 for the training. All of training was conducted without an instructor.
Hani Hanjour trained on 151 days at Arizona Aviation during the period December 29, 1997 to December 23, 2000. Hanjour paid a total of \$15,110.74 for the training. Hanjour engaged in flight activity at Arizona Aviation on the same dates no less than five times, including: May 29, 1998, June 1, 1998, June 17, 1998, September 30, 1998, and October 7, 1998.
On Contember 10, 2001
On September 19, 2001, provided FBI Phoenix the following information:
In approximately 1996, moved to Arizona to finish his flight training. He attended a program at Westwind Aviation for which he would pay \$14,000.00 to complete the program. Westwind Aviation was located near the Deer Valley Airport worked at the airport concession stand in order to raise money for the flight training and living expenses. In April 1997, he was granted his instructor certification. He was certified in commercial, multi-engine, and instrument ratings wanted to become an instructor in order to build hours
towards getting a higher level flight status and also to be more marketable to become an air transport pilot. Also, while
While at Westwind Aviation, Middle  Eastern students. One student named was from Qatar and was the first student  This student was government subsidized and attended training at Westwind Aviation. whereabouts
at this time but believes be may be in Catar

Another student who also attended the
Westwind Academy. He was approximately two months behind
in his flight training. flew on two different occasions that he knows of and described him as having a temper.
He was Algerian by nationality. At the present time,
Raissi is in Algeria or possibly England; however,
has had no other contact
*
<u>Hani</u> Hanjour was a Saudi Arabian National
as very, very quiet who did not interact with the other
students, to include the Arabic or the Muslim students. Hassan had seen Hanjour at the mosque many times and considered him to
be overly religious. Hani Hanjour's flight training was financed
His father was deceased,
that Hanjour took on the financial obligations to ensure that Hanjour was taken care of. Hanjour was described as
not anti-social but very much to himself. He sat by himself at
lunch and would not go out with the other pilots to do things.
The only place that Hanjour was seen outside of the aviation
school was by the mosque.

# <u>LOTFI RAISSI</u>

Hani Hanjour was also
Hanjour as a very poor pilot who did not react to criticism very well. Hanjour was very, very nervous inside the cockpit to the point where Hanjour was almost fearful. he flew with Hani Hanjour on five to six flights. Hanjour struggled with the instrument rating, Hanjour eventually passed his commercial pilot certification with the FAA. He had initially failed it once for Hani Hanjour's English was extremely weak, and it is believed that he wanted to become a Saudi Arabian airlines pilot.
Immediately after Hanjour passed his check-out ride for his commercial rating, Hanjour left for Saudi Arabia. The last time Hanjour was sometime during the religious holidays of Ramadan at the mosque. Hanjour did not approach They spoke only briefly. Hanjour said he wanted to come back to the United States to build more hours. Hanjour also asked he knew where to go to get a 737 aircraft type rating. told him that he would have to contact the school to find out now to get that rating.
became aware that Hani Hanjour was one of the pilots of the hijacked aircraft on approximately Friday or Saturday, September 13 or 14, 2001. While he was talking to his wife on the phone, noticed that Hani Hanjour's name and picture had come up on the media.
On September 21, 2001, provided FBI Phoenix the following information:
West Airlines. employees on the Boeing 737 flight system. Prior to his current job the flight simulators at Sawyer Aviation (SA). a one hour dual check flight on the simulators of all individuals joining the Sim Club. a check flight on the simulator of an Arab man named Hani. Hani was not interested in going to flight school, he was only interested in using the simulator. first met Hani in 1998. was introduced to Hani the flight simulators. a picture of Hani Hanjour. was unaware

that the picture was of Hanjour the individual pictured (Hanjour) was very similar to a man he recalled seeing walking in a hallway at SA
In addition to the Arab man named Hani, other men of Arab descent that were members of the Sim Club.  was specifically asked if he knew of a man named which remembered well. was both a member of the Sim Club and the SA flight school. eventually went on to obtain a commercial pilots license, and recalled that went back to a middle eastern country to fly for an airline. did not finish his flight school training with SA. He was asked to leave the program at some point because of his poor performance. had a bad temper and wanted things done his way. did not like the people or the culture in the United States. could possibly be connected in some way, or may have some information regarding the recent terrorist attack on the United States.
was shown several photographs of men of Arab descent.  The photographs were of Arab men whose identities were known to the investigators showing the photographs. was not aware of their identities. the faces of Marwan Alshehhil and Zaad Samir Jarrah.  Club. He remembered doing  He was eighty percent sure that he had seen Alshehhi using the simulator. He thought he recognized the faces  from his time at SA, and was one hundred percent sure that he had talk to Jarrah at SA. He identified Jarrah's lip as the distinctive feature which made him sure that he had talked with Jarrah. that he may have seen using the simulator. He was only eighty sure because was pictured with a beard, and did not recall any of the
men having a beard.  the Arab men that used the simulator come alone. From their behavior he felt that they were all a part of a support group to help each other learn on the simulator.  lived at an apartment complex with another Arab man, whose identity was unknown
recalled that men of middle eastern descent began to "flock" to the Sim Club when word got out that it provided unlimited access to a flight simulator.

individuals of middle eastern descent knew that the Phoenix, Arizona area, described as the valley, provided renowned flight training, to include Lufthansa Airlines. Lufthansa has significant operations in both the Phoenix area and the middle east. around 1990 there was a significant increase in the amount of people of middle eastern descent that began to request flight training in the Phoenix area.
the following description of the man known to him as Hani.
Sex: Male Weight: 145-150 pounds Hair: Curly, close cropped Build: Very slight and thin Height: 5'5"-5'6" Hands: Big and gangly
On September 24, 2001, provided the following information:
shown photographs of Hani Hanjour
all of whom he
recognized as having attended flight training together at Arizona Aviation.
Arizona Aviation as a from November, 1997 until May, 1999. Hani Hanjour, and another Middle Eastern student whose first name was (Last Name Unknown) attended flight training together at Arizona Aviation, arriving very shortly after working there. The only one-on-one contact that had with any of the men was on January 6, 1998, at which time (a flight training testing requirement) with Hanjour.
,
Not long after Hanjour LNU arrived at Arizona Aviation,
also arrived there believed the
five men must have known each other prior to the flight training because they were very close from the beginning. would see the men on a regular basis at the flight school, and they were usually together. They spoke some English, but mostly they spoke a foreign language thought to be Arabic.
as "cocky". If made a mistake, he always blamed it on someone else, or claimed there

b6 b7C b7D

# <u>LOTFI RAISSI</u>

was a problem with the aircrafttalked about going to flight school in Scottsdale, Arizona, and in fact had a 737 rating. Arizona Aviation allowed free lance flight instruction did a lot of flight instruction there, predominantly if not exclusively to other Middle Easterners.
On September 26, 2001, (PROTECT IDENTITY) provided the following information:
was shown a photograph depicting
identified the individual in the photograph
from November 4, 1996 to April 6,
2000.
a photograph depicting Hani Hanjour. identified the individual in the photograph as Hani Hanjour.
met Raissi on or about July, 1998 through
always had money, wore nice clothes and was
well groomed.
made long distance phone calls from the apartment office and would speak
Arabic. Hanjour was sometimes when he
made the phone calls.
7000
met Hanjour on or about August 1998
saw Hanjour several times
for a couple of weeks. Hanjour was a quiet
individual and had a strong Arabic accent.
On September 27, 2001, provided the following information:
**
the Westwind Aviation Academy
and as a close and personal friend.  often spent personal time together and also flew
together at Westwind Aviation. took a
vacation together last
saw approximately two months ago in Phoenix, Arizona.

b6 b7C b7D

# <u>LOTFI RAISSI</u>

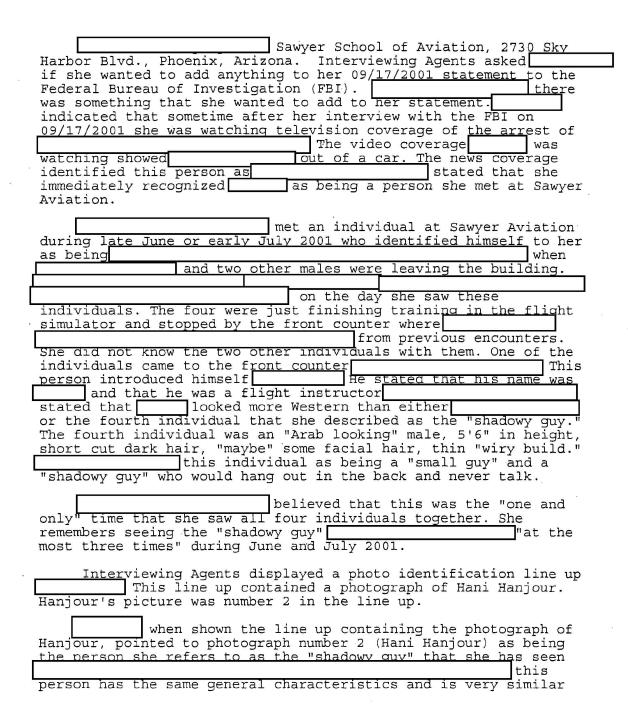
living in England.	
an individual named Hani Hanjour at the Tempe, Arizona mosque, through another acquaintance named  Hanjour was a very quiet individual and only spoke with him on three or four occasions.  Hanjour were close friends, only spoke with Hanjour at the mosque. last saw Hanjour praying at the mosque approximately two months ago. he	
attended Westwind Aviation Academy at the same time as Hanjour.	
On September 27, 2001, (PROTECT IDENTITY) provided the following information:	
a photograph depicting	
November 4, 1996 to April 6, 2000.	
a photograph depicting Hani Hanjour.  did not identify the individual by name. However,  stated she has seen the individual in the photograph	
a photograph	
a photograph  identified the individual in the photograph as,  referred to his cousin as Hani, last name not provided.  "Hani").	
identified the individual in the photograph as, referred to his cousin as Hani, last name not provided. in February or March,	
identified the individual in the photograph as, referred to his cousin as Hani, last name not provided. "Hani").	
identified the individual in the photograph as, referred to his cousin as Hani, last name not provided.  in February or March, 1999.  saw two unknown Middle-Eastern males described one of the unknown males as being eighteen to twenty years old, 5'7"-5'8", slight build. wavy black hair(medium length), with a goatee. the other unknown male as being twenty to twenty five years old, 5'6"-5'7", average	

b6 b7C b7D

about white American men and how they did not support
their families. Raissi almost on a
daily basis
•
use the office phone on several
occasions and at times he would call someone in California
did not provide any information
regarding the identity of the individual calling.
dinner on one occasion
but did not provide any details.
the individual she identified as being
seen may have lived with two other unknown males in
the apartment complex but she is not sure. The individual in the
photograph was actually Hani Hanjour.
phocograph was accuarry hand hanjour.
·
On October 7, 2001, provided the
following information:
first metat the Pan Am
flight Academy in late 1997 or early 1998. started out as
a flight student and eventually became an instructor.
first instructor was an individual The first
time flew solo he crashed a plane was
assigned to be his teacher.
at the time. From May 1998 to September 1998,
on a daily basis.
but would leave for three or four months at a time.
he was going to Paris or England.
several times since September 1998.
would come to Westwind with several people and fly to Las
Vegas. LNU and Hani Hanjour were two people that would
travel with him. remembered seeing Hani Hanjour
three times during 1998. When Hanjour would come to
the airport with several people. Hanjour would sit by himself at a distance. that Hanjour was weird and he
did not like socializing with people.
ard not tive sociativing with beobie.
On October 16, 2001, provided the following
information:

LOTFI RAISSI

b6 b7C



.b6 .b7C

# LOTFI RAISSI

appearing as the person she saw at Sawyer. She stated that the person in photograph number 2 has the same "wiry build", thin neck, light skin, hair and facial hair that she remembers seeing on the guy she saw at Sawyer Aviation. However, she could not be 100 % sure.

LOTFI RAISSI b6

Hani Hanjour is believed to have piloted American Airlines flight #77 into the Pentagon. Hanjour most likely manually maneuvered the aircraft off of its flight path. Hanjour very likely used the aircraft's instruments to assist in the maneuvering of the aircraft into the Pentagon. the benefits of Hanjour, who has a commercial pilot's certificate and received training on a Boeing 737-200 simulator, training on AST-300 (the above noted simulator used at Sawyer), is that it would provide him confidence and improve his instrument skills which are to some degree transferrable to any aircraft to include a Boeing 757. On December 1, 2001, provided the following information: did observe provide flight instruction hoard an airplane on at least one occasion and possibly twice. did not specifically recall those dates, nor did he Hani Hanjour specifically recall on March 8, 1999. was shown the original "Aircraft Usage Agreement" dated March 8, 1999 for aircraft number N3056P, a PA23-180 model airplane. was advised that this was the only recorded rental of this aircraft for March 8, 1999. was also shown a photocopy of the aforementioned "Aircraft Usage Agreement" and he confirmed that it was a photocopy of the original. The photocopy will be placed in a FD-340 envelope and forwarded to the file. was shown photocopies of Hani pilot log book entries for Hanjour's March 8, After reviewing these records for March 8, 1999, the re<u>cords reveal</u> was on the aforementioned airplane with Hanjour. verifying Hanjour's log confirmed that it was book entries for March 8, 1999. would confirm that the flight student, in this case Hanjour, was comfortable with an observer accompanying them on the flight. If the student was not comfortable with there being an observer, the observer to accompany them. When asked how coordinated accompanying Hanjour, would have been at the airfield the "180" model has seats accompany them. for four people; whereas, the "150" model only has two seats. log book entries for March 8,

the 1

pilot in command.

would have been the observer.

1999 reveal

credited himself with 1.7 hours as flight

understand why

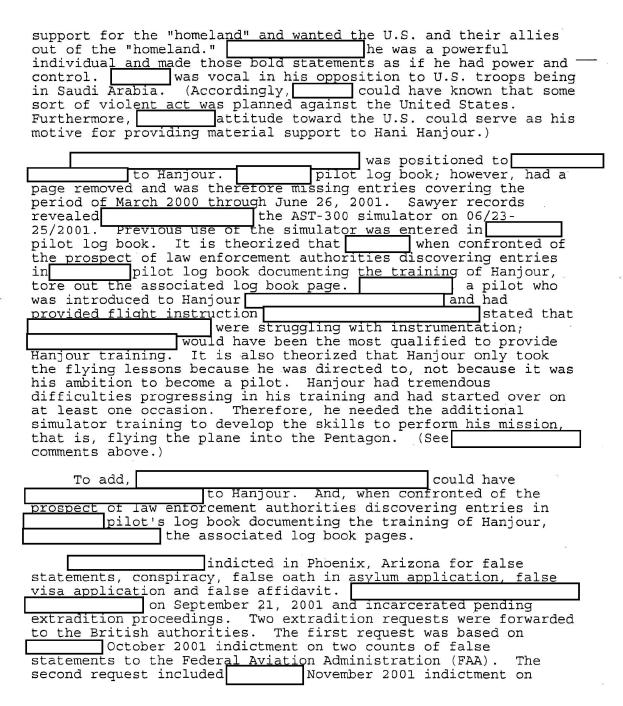
LOTFI RAISSI

I

b6 b7C b7D

LOTFI RAISSI

b6 b7C b7D



LOTFI RAISSI b6 b7c b7D	
conspiracy to commit immigration relate fraud, obtain asylum in the U.S. base on a fictitious asylum application) false affidavit and false oath in connection with the immigration fraud, visa fraud and additional false statement charges related to applications to FAA.	sed e i
With respect to the early information indicating a connection between the following is provided: On 07/11/2002, Legat London set forth results	